

*Intell Comm* *066 & memo.*

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

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SUBJECT: SENATORS CRITICIZE INTELLIGENCE REORGANIZATION

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231A

CIA 11-25 WA

NIGHT LD

BY JOHN HALL

WASHINGTON (UPI) --KEY SENATORS ARE CONCERNED THAT CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS MIGHT HAVE BEEN "KICKED UPSTAIRS" IN THE RESPUFFLE OF AMERICA'S INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, WITH MORE INFLUENCE IN U. S. SPY ACTIVITIES GOING TO MILITARY MEN.

HELMS HAS ASSURED INQUIRING SENATORS THAT HE HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE HAS BEEN SHUFFLED ASIDE IN THE NATION'S INTELLIGENCE HIERARCHY.

BUT THERE IS NAGGING CONCERN ON CAPITOL HILL THAT THE POPULAR DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS LOST OUT IN THE SHAKEUP OF THE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK ORDERED BY PRESIDENT NIXON LAST MONTH.

SENS. STUART SYMINGTON, D-MO., AND J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SHAKEUP HAS INCREASED PENTAGON PREDOMINANCE IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD, AND SEN. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

WHAT HAS DISTURBED HELMS' FRIENDS IN THE SENATE IS THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY CONTROL OF THE CIA APPARENTLY HAS BEEN RELINQUISHED TO A MILITARY MAN, LT. GEN. ROBERT E. CUSHMAN JR., TO FREE HELMS FOR HIS NEW DUTIES AS OVERALL CZAR OF THE CIA AND ALL OTHER INTELLIGENCE UNITS. CUSHMAN, A MARINE, IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CIA.

ON TOP OF THIS, THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW VOICE IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMAND THROUGH MEMBERSHIP ON A COMMITTEE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS ADVISER, DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER, TO OVERSEE INTELLIGENCE.

HELMS, IN A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING WITH THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE THIS WEEK, SAID HE DID NOT THINK HE WAS BEING SHOVED OUT OF THE WAY.

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STENNIS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SAID HELMS "ASSURED ME THAT HIS DOMINANCE OVER IT (THE CIA), HIS EFFECTIVENESS, HIS POWERS OVER IT WILL NOT BE DIMINISHED ONE BIT."

BUT STENNIS INDICATED HE STILL WAS NOT SATISFIED AND "WE ARE GOING INTO IT AND WE ARE GOING TO ANALYZE IT AND STUDY IT AND HAVE AN INVESTIGATION -- IF ONE WANTS TO USE THAT WORD -- IF NECESSARY. WE DO NOT TAKE THESE THINGS LIGHTLY. THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH."

STENNIS SAID THE IMPRESSION "IS THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE BEING KICKED UPSTAIRS AND DENIED AUTHORITY AND SOME OTHER FELLOW PUT IN. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THAT IS TRUE OR NOT, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS. HELMS DOES NOT THINK SO."

NO ONE IN THE SENATE REALLY KNOWS WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT THE CIA. NOT EVEN THE TOP SENATORS, LIKE STENNIS, WHO ARE LET IN ON THE NATION'S INTELLIGENCE SECRETS, WERE TOLD IN ADVANCE WHAT HAPPENED.

ONLY FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND FIVE FROM THE HOUSE ARE GIVEN INFORMATION ON THE INTELLIGENCE BUDGET AND DETAILED BRIEFINGS ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES.

BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT EVEN THIS TINY GROUP OF LAWMAKERS HAS BEEN KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT SOME INTELLIGENCE VENTURES.

CHAIRMAN ALLEN ELLENDER, D-LA., OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SAID HE HAD NOT EVEN BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE SECRET CIA SUPPORT OF AN ENTIRE GUERRILLA ARMY OPERATING IN THE JUNGLES OF LAOS.

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